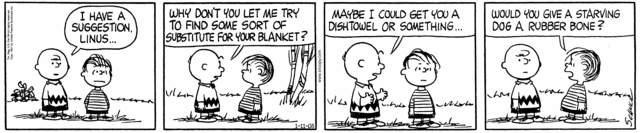
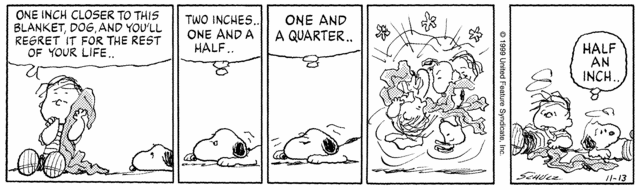
**“Peanuts” Comics about Linus’ Blanket**

[](http://comics.com/peanuts/2008-01-11/)

In this comic strip, Linus says that there is no substitute for his blanket. He compares replacing his old blanket with a dishtowel to giving a starving dog a fake bone. Use of the word “starving” by Linus tells us that Linus feels he needs his blanket in the same way a dog would need food. This tells us that Linus views the blanket as necessary for him and not as something he could live without.

[](http://comics.com/peanuts/2008-01-17/)

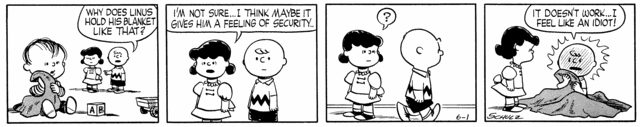
In this comic strip, Linus shows affection for his blanket by rejoicing when Snoopy digs it up. He hugs Snoopy to thank him for finding the blanket that he loves. This strip seems to express the joy and happiness Linus gets from the blanket. Snoopy’s thought in the last frame shows that he understands how Linus loves the blanket, based on Linus’ reaction when Snoopy brings it back to Linus.

[](http://comics.com/peanuts/1999-11-13/)

This comic strip shows that Linus is protective of his blanket when Snoopy tries to touch it. This demonstrates that Linus will fight for his blanket. Again, we see how much the blanket means to Linus. He is willing to risk injury to himself and Snoopy in order to protect his blanket. Linus treats the blanket like it is a person and not an object. He treats it as if it is a family member worthy of defending.

[](http://comics.com/peanuts/2008-01-19/)

In this comic strip, Linus’ blanket is torn up and dirty. The condition of the blanket does not matter to Linus. It is his blanket and he still loves it. This brings in the idea of unconditional love. Linus loves the blanket and does not care about the appearance or the smell. Again, this shows that he views the blanket as more than an object. He treats the blanket like he would a family member that he would love unconditionally.

[](http://comics.com/peanuts/1954-06-01/)

This comic strip shows Lucy telling Charlie Brown that Linus loves his blanket, because it gives him a feeling of security. The term “security blanket” was popularized by the use of the blanket in “Peanuts” and caused the term to be more widely used. ([www*.*tripatlas.com/Security\_blanket](http://www.tripatlas.com/Security_blanket)) Lucy understands what the blanket means to Linus, and Charlie Brown shows that he can see the joy that Linus receives from the blanket as well. He shows this by trying the blanket himself to see if he can get the same benefit as Linus. Unfortunately, it does not work for Charlie Brown. One of the many themes of “Peanuts” is Charlie Brown’s struggle for confidence and acceptance. Linus seems to have these characteristics, so it makes Charlie Brown want try out the blanket in the hopes that he might feel the same way as Linus. Since the blanket does not work for Charlie Brown, he must continue his search. For Linus, the blanket is part of who he is.

**What Role does Linus Play in the “Peanuts” Community**

Linus is one of the younger members of the “Peanuts” gang. Linus has many characteristics of a young child: he sucks his thumb, he holds a blanket, and he believes in imaginary characters like the “Great Pumpkin.” Linus is also the philosopher of the “Peanuts” characters. Linus is extraordinarily intelligent, and he has to explain history and other things to the “Peanuts” characters many times. The rest of the characters do not appear to be as informed and knowledgeable as Linus. On occasion, mostly during holidays, Linus recites verses from the Bible by memory. This is done to remind the other characters of the real meaning of the holidays and how certain traditions began.

In a way, Linus is the parent or the grown up in the group. Lucy can be selfish and focused on how she can profit from every situation. Charlie Brown is usually feeling sorry for himself and thinking about how the world is against him or how he can fit in. Snoopy often is interested only in fun and what he is doing at the moment. The actual adults in Peanuts do not express themselves. Linus often is the character who brings the others back to reality when he recites history or scripture or tells Charlie Brown or Lucy the proper way to act in a situation, much as a parent would.

**Explain the Blanket’s Importance as a Symbol**

Linus’ blanket is a symbol of security, and for Linus it gives him special powers that may exist only because Linus gets confidence from the blanket. Linus uses his blanket in many different ways. At school, if bullies pick on him, he uses the blanket as a whip, and the bullies leave him alone. Also, in a television special, Linus uses the blanket as a costume for a shepherd in a Christmas play. Another time, Linus uses his blanket to open a mailbox that he cannot reach in order to mail a letter to the Great Pumpkin. Linus also uses his blanket as a tool, a weapon, a disguise, and as a shield from Sally’s attempts to show him affection. (http://everything2.com/title/Linus%2520Van%2520Pelt) For Linus, the blanket serves many functions, but its main function is to provide him with security.

For people who read “Peanuts,” many characters in the strip either remind the readers of themselves or someone they know. Linus and his blanket symbolize that people may need something to make them feel complete. For Linus, that is symbolized by the blanket, which he loves and gives him a feeling of security. People reading the comic strip may not have blankets, but there may be other things in their lives that give them the same feeling.

One of the Linus Project’s missions is to help young children have a feeling of security by giving them blankets. (www.projectlinus.org/) The children who receive the blankets are going through some kind of hardship and may need something to boost their spirits, so for them the blankets may serve the same purpose that they do for Linus. This was probably why the Linus Project was named after Linus van Pelt.

**Graphic Organizer for the “Peanuts” Comics**

Strip #1- Linus tells us that there is no substitute for his blanket in this comic strip.

Strip #2- Linus demonstrates that he loves his blanket, when he reacts so joyously when Snoopy finds his blanket.

Strip #3- Linus illustrates that he is protective of his blanket in this comic, when Snoopy tries to grab his blanket.

Strip #4- In this comic, Linus’ blanket is dirty, but Linus still likes it, because it is his blanket.

Strip#5- Lucy tells us in this strip that Linus holds his blanket, because of the feeling of security it brings him.

Linus’ Role- Linus is one of the youngest “Peanuts” characters, but he is definitely the smartest of them all. Linus brings all the “Peanuts” characters together, and it is almost like he is the parent of the group.

The Blanket’s Importance as a Symbol- Linus uses is blanket to do many things, but he loves it the most, because it gives him a feeling of security.

**Bibliography for the “Peanuts” Comics**

[www.comics.com/peanuts](http://www.comics.com/peanuts)

[www.tripatlas.com/Security\_blanket](http://www.tripatlas.com/Security_blanket)

<http://everything2.com/title/Linus%2520Van%2520Pelt>

[www.projectlinus.org/](http://www.projectlinus.org/)